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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,727	10/23/2003	Satoru Majima	MAJIMA-1	6809

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,727

Applicant(s)

MAJIMA, SATORU

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,11-21 and 24-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9,10,22 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/07/2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of allowability filed 08/24/2004 is withdrawn in view of the newly submitted IDS filed 10/07/2004

Rejections based on the newly cited references are presented below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8, 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication JP-162580.

With regard to claims 1, 15, 16, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses a connector comprising' an insulator (2) having a contact receiving portion and a retainer receiving portion that communicate with each other; a conductive contact (7) inserted into said contact receiving portion from a first direction', and a retainer (6) inserted into said retainer receiving portion from said first direction for preventing said contact from coming off in a direction opposite to said first direction, said retainer comprising a body portion and an elastic piece (9) that is elastically deformable and joined to said body portion, said body portion having an excessive deformation preventing portion (a longitudinal projection on side wall of 6) for preventing excessive deformation of said elastic piece toward said body portion, said elastic piece having a specific lock portion (10) and projecting from said body portion in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction, said elastic piece is pushed and deformed toward said body portion by an inner wall surface of said retainer receiving portion when said retainer is inserted into said retainer receiving portion, said insulator having a specific lock receiving

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portion (15) for locking said specific lock portion when said retainer is inserted to a predetermined position of said retainer receiving portion.

With regard to claims 3, 17 Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses that said elastic piece (9) extends substantially along said first direction to have an extending end joined to said body portion.

With regard to claims 4, 15, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses that said excessive deformation preventing portion is formed in a position that confronts said elastic piece when said retainer is inserted to the predetermined position of said retainer receiving portion.

With regard to claims 5, 18, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses that said excessive deformation preventing portion is projected from said body portion toward said elastic piece (9).

With regard to claims 6, 19, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses that said retainer (6) is detachably mounted in said insulator.

With regard to claims 7, 20, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses that said specific lock portion (10) is projected outward from an outer surface of an intermediate portion of said elastic piece, said specific lock receiving portion (16) being defined by a through hole formed on the inner wall surface of said retainer receiving portion.

With regard to claims 8, 21, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses that said specific lock portion (10) is projected in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction, said contact receiving portion and said retainer receiving portion being adjacent to each other in a third direction perpendicular to said first and second directions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 11-14, 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication JP-162580 in view of Japanese Publication 4-36784.

With regard to claim 11, 24, Japanese Publication JP-162580 discloses a secondary lock mechanism (8) connected to said contact (18) and said retainer (6) for indirectly locking said contact with said insulator through said retainer in said first direction.

Japanese Publication JP-162580 do not disclose a primary lock mechanism connected to said insulator and said contact for directly locking said contact with said insulator in said first direction'

Japanese Publication 4-36784 disclose a primary lock mechanism (3, 10) connected to said insulator and said contact for directly locking said contact with said insulator in said first direction'

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to double-lock the contact as taught by Japanese Publication 4-36784, to dependably fix the contact with the insulator and the retainer.

an engaging hole made in said contact; and

With regard to claims 12, 25, Japanese Publication JP-162580 when modified by Japanese Publication 4-36784 discloses (Japanese Publication 4-36784) a protrusion (the end portion of 3) protruding from said insulator towards said contact receiving portion, said protrusion being inserted in said engaging hole to lock said contact in said first direction.

With regard to claims 13, 26, Japanese Publication JP-162580 when modified by Japanese Publication 4-36784 discloses (Japanese Publication 4-36784) said insulator (A) has a deformable portion (a finger 3) elastically deformable, said protrusion being formed integral with said deformable portion.

With regard to claims 14, 27, Japanese Publication JP-162580 when modified by Japanese Publication 4-36784 discloses (Japanese Publication JP-162580) said retainer has an insert end (8), said contact (7) having a shoulder portion which engages with said insert end in said first direction, said insert end and said shoulder portion being cooperated with to each other to serve as said secondary lock mechanism.

Allowable Subject Matter

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Claims 9, 10, 22, 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the a body portion's particular lock portion projected in said third direction, said insulator having a particular lock receiving portion for locking said particular lock portion (claims 9, 22).

Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on 10/07/2004 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609(B)(2)(i). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

05/31/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER